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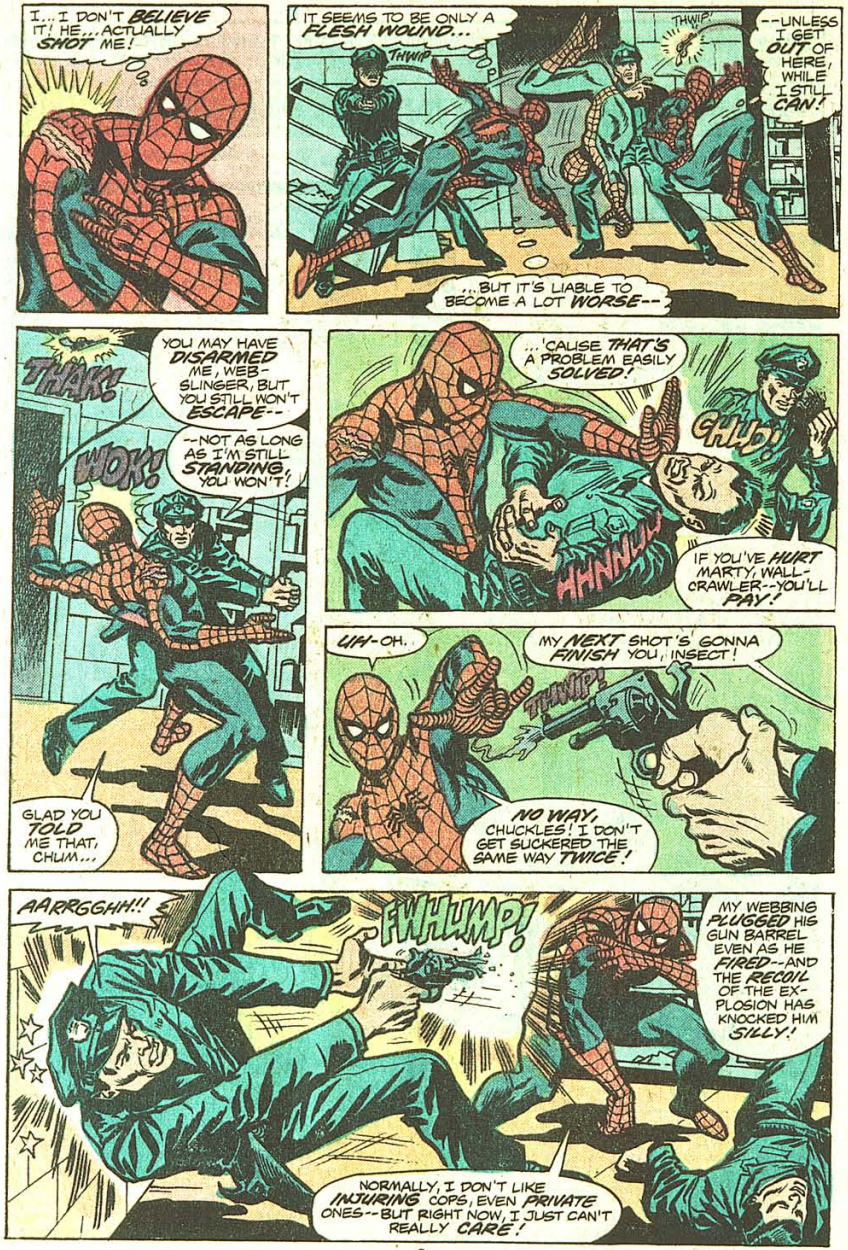

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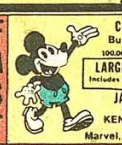

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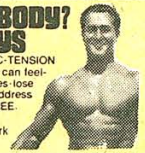

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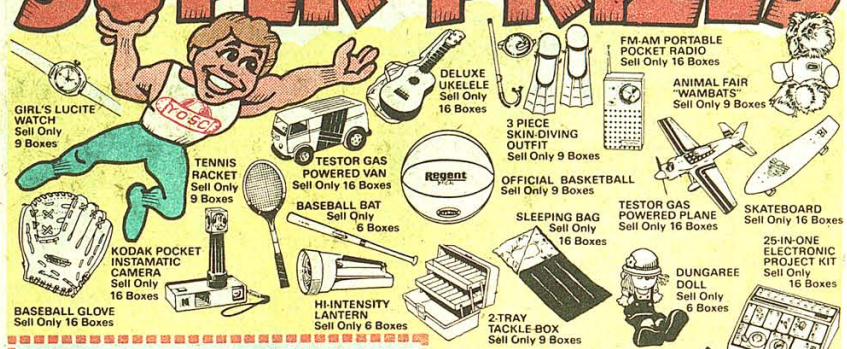

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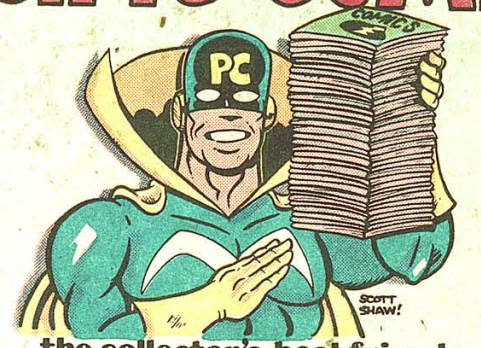

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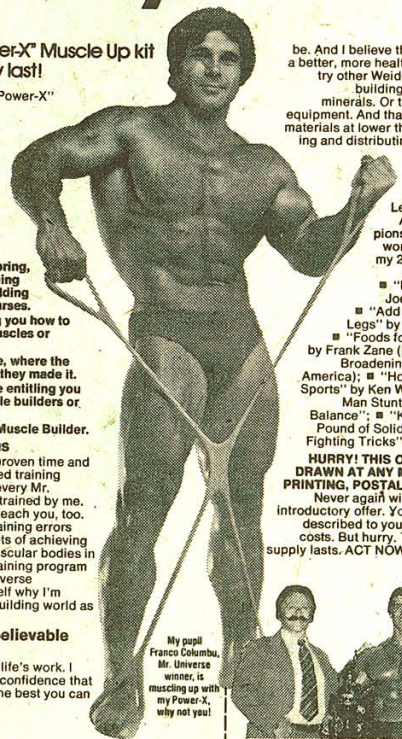

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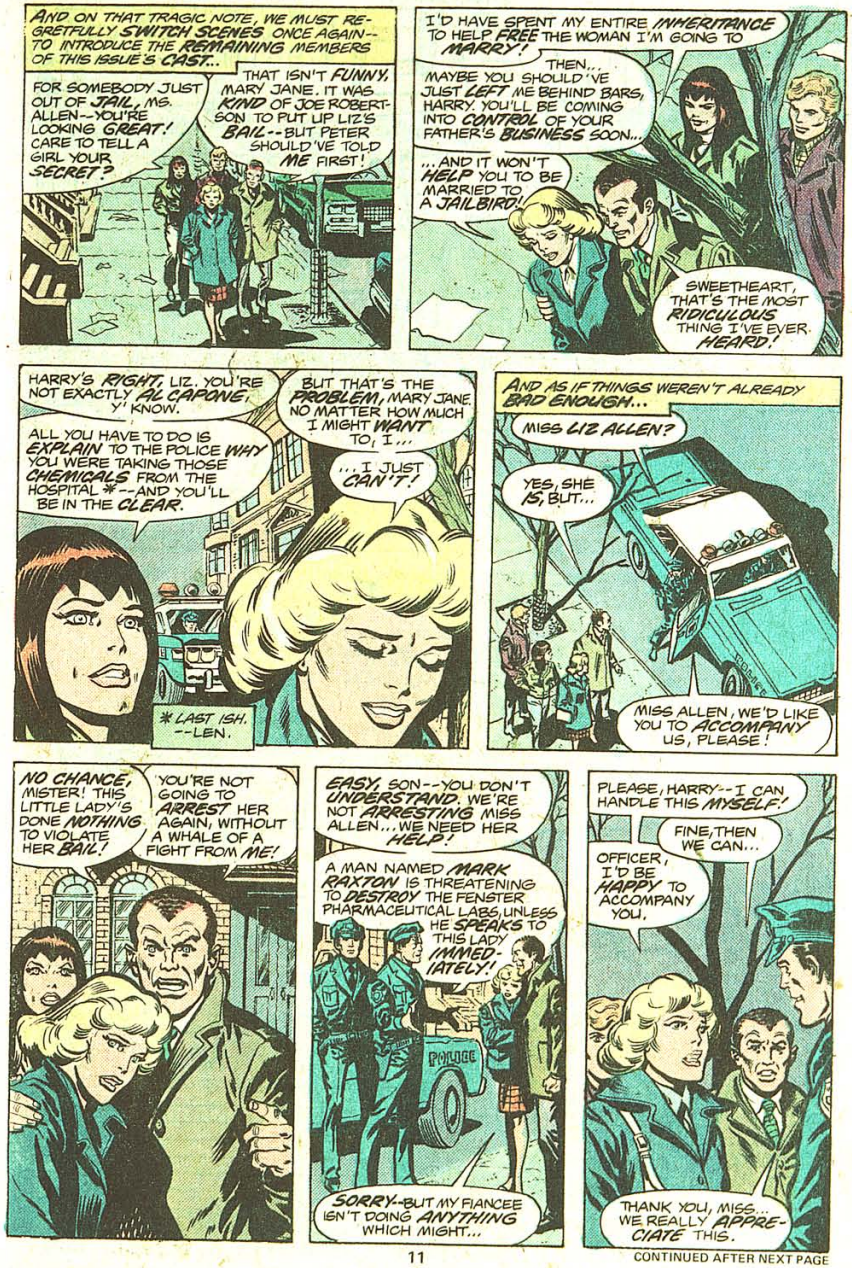

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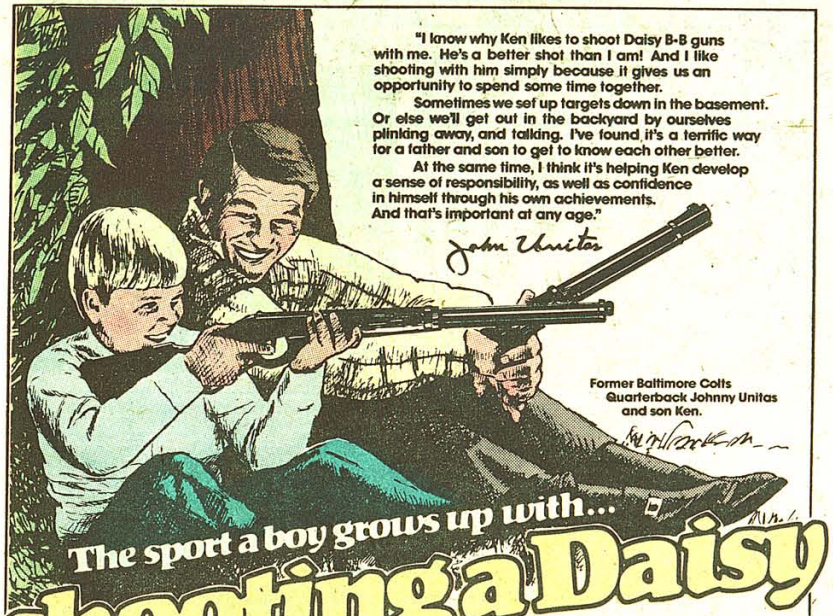

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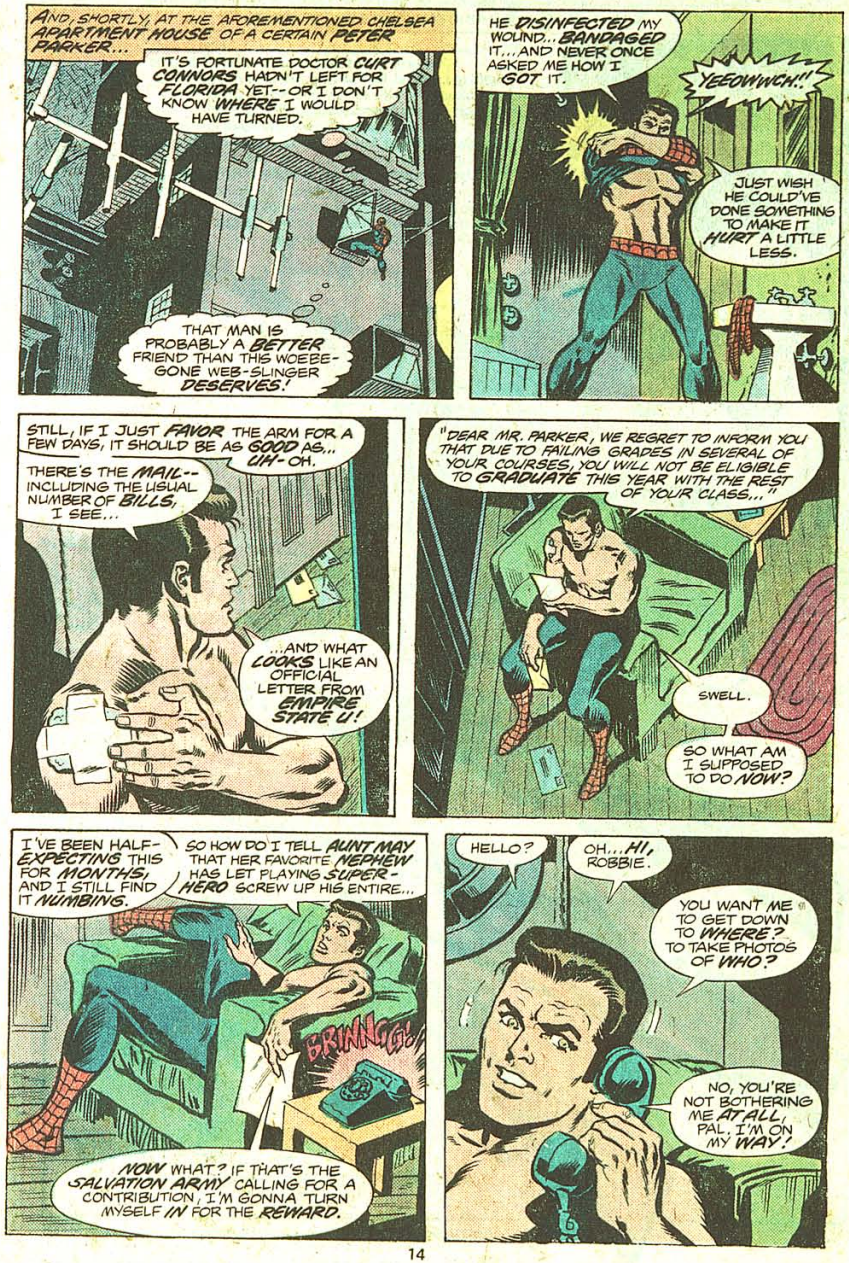

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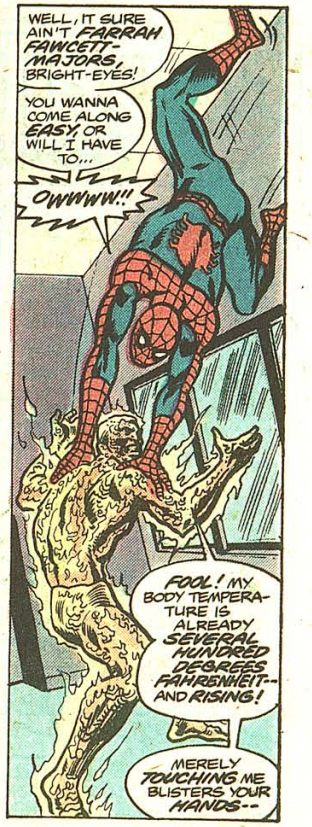

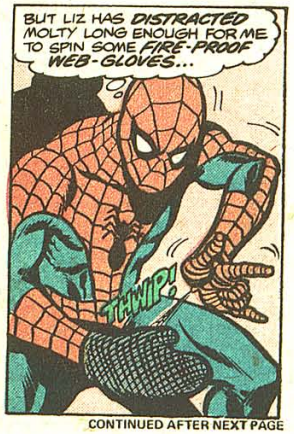

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THE SPIDER'S WEB

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Dear Len and Ross,

Your work in SPIDER-MAN recently has been simply fabulous. Ross's pencils have been super. I would like to see him draw THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN too. The Will-o'-the-Wisp/Spider-Slayer series was one of your best stories ever and I hope we'll be seeing more of Will-o'-the-Wisp and the mysterious Dr. Jonas Harrow.

Now to the matter at hand, SPIDER-MAN #169. "Confrontation" was a good story. Seeing Jameson trying to pull the "mask" off Parker's face and then discovering he wasn't wearing one was simply hilarious. Using the fake photos to make Jameson think that his pictures were the double exposures was sheer genius on Peter's part! It was nice to see Peter's photographing ability being highlighted. The fight with Doctor Faustus's gang showed Spidey at his best. Watching that guy punching away at Spidey with no effect was nice to see. Too often lately Spidey has been taken out by blows he shouldn't have even felt! Dr. Faustus has never been one of my favorite villains, but I'm sure Len will make him interesting.

Now it's no-prize time. On page 15, panel 4, Peter tells Jameson, "Well-er-what about Harry Osborn? We were still roommates while he was the Green Goblin." The only thing wrong with this is that Peter's the only one who knows Harry ever was the Green Goblin! Check the ending of SPIDER-MAN #137. Everyone thought Harry was crazy when he told them he was the Green Goblin *and* that Peter Parker was Spider-Man! If they had believed him they would have learned Spidey's "secret identity"!! Try to wiggle out of that one!

Randy Divinski
1639 Maryland Ave. S.
St. Louis Park, Minn. 55426

Wiggle all we might, Randy, you've still got us pinned—you and about a million other True Believers—so there's not much we can do beside give you your coveted no-prize.

Truth to tell, Lively Len Wein realized his error after scripting SPIDER-MAN #169, and had intended to go back and adjust the offending line when the original artwork returned to the Bullpen for proofreading, but somehow, the line slipped by him again.

So, for the multitude of you who might have been bothered by the Lively One's error, please go back to your copies of SPIDER-MAN #169 and insert the words "thought he" before the phrase "was the Green Goblin" and everything should work out just fine.

Dear Marvel,

Thing's have really shaped up. Catching up on six months of SPIDER-MAN really proved interesting. It's so obvious that all those little loose ends have been tied together.

Not only has Peter Parker straightened out his love life, but he has also seen his other anxieties working out. Len Wein certainly does know how to control a story. We haven't been lost in a mountain of forgotten sub-plots, either. J. Jonah Jameson has again become a prominent character in the strip, as have the remaining supporting figures. Harry and Liz are to be married. You're hinting at a possible relationship between J.J.J. and Dr. Marla Madison. Even new material is being added to the scene. "Robbie" Robertson has shown indications of some intriguing problems. Dr. Hamilton seems to be becoming another character in the Peter Parker annal.

The sub-plot side of Spider-Man improved, and we can also see a variation in the incidents that have occurred. When was the last time someone's boss came by and grabbed the hero's hair in order to prove something? This scene was one of the most unique ever. The past few issues presented another side of Spider-Man. The Will-O-The-Wisp worked magnificently with Spidey and brought forth some of Pete Parker's more rational moments.

We're even back to the old stunts. Spider-Man has a hole in his boot! Fantastic. Something like this wouldn't work in the newest sensation known as NOVA. Spider-Man even mistook Dr. Faustus as the Kingpin. Where else could this happen?

Ross Andru's work has improved tremendously. Since I last read an issue of SPIDER-MAN, Ross has taken the time to take snap photos of the areas Spidey is to be located. Also, I've seen an improvement in the variation of angles of each panel.

What more could I say?

Michael Biegel
6 Valley Lane
Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458

Well, Mike, we thought about it for quite a while, and as near as we can figure it, you've just about said it all!

Thanks, Effendi.

Dear Len & Ross:

You guys never cease to amaze me, either that or I get to try for a no-prize—again. You will note that in SPIDER-MAN #169, on page 17, Spidey reads the sign 'Do Not Enter'. Yes, I realize that our beloved web-slinger can read, but from that distance, at night on a dark city street? I was not aware he had gained super-sight. No, I will not accept the excuse he had carrot soup for dinner, or even lunch.

Let me close though, by saying that Marvel produces the best mags around, and it's a real special thanks to people like you and the rest that make them so. . .'Nuff Said!

Tony Sprague
150 Capri St.
Morro Bay, CA 93442

Would you believe that the same radioactive spider bite that gave our hero his wall-crawling abilities and the proportionate strength of a spider, gave him the proportionate *sight* of a spider as well?

No, huh? Well, Tony, would you believe you've got your no-prize then? Man, this just seems to be our month for giving away those delectible non-entities, doesn't it?

Let us close though, by saying that we loved your last paragraph. It's comments like that that keep us trying. 'Nuff Said?

Mr. Len Wein:

Fool!! Do you really think that you can keep me hidden in the recesses of Harry Osborn's mind much longer?? Eventually, young Osborn will stumble onto one of the secret places where I keep my costumes; something will click in his mind, and Voila!! Look out, accursed Web-Slinger!

I know I will not have to wait much longer, so even now I am planning my next diabolical crime. Care to guess? Right!! I'm going to knock Mary Jane Watson off the Empire State Building!!!! HA HA HA HA HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HO HO HO HO HUH HUH!!!

The GREEN GOBLIN
121-122 Pumpkin Place
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And on that rather disconcerting note, we take our leave until next time. In the meanwhile, don't take any wooden spiders, okay?

And be kind to one another.

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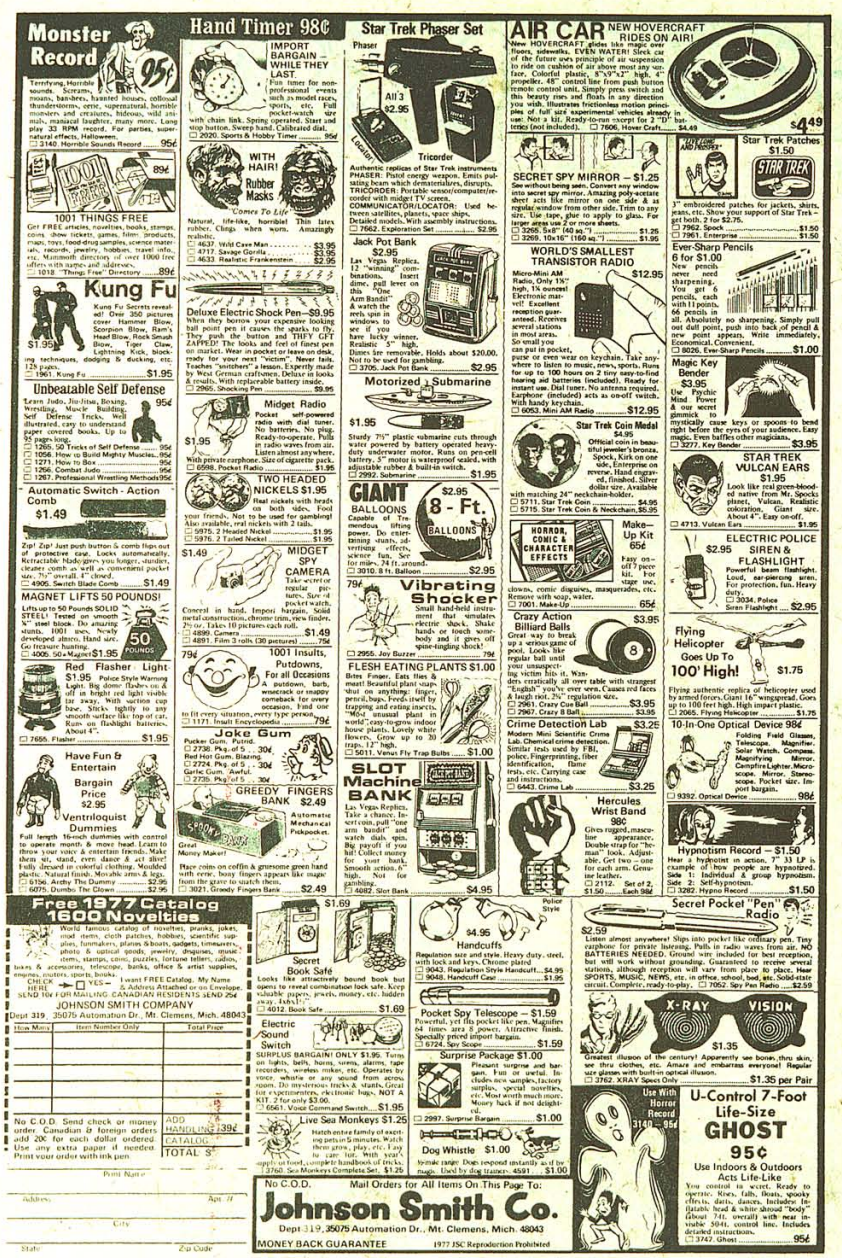

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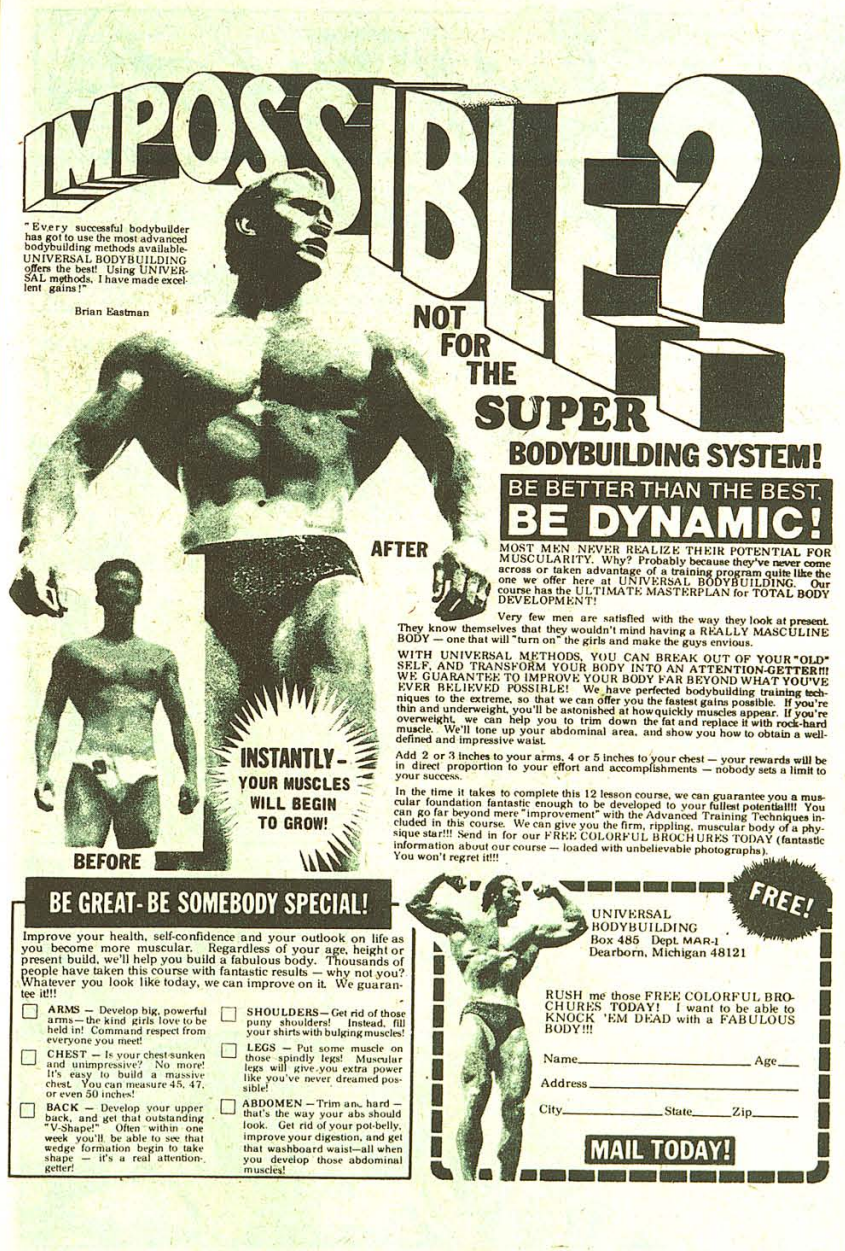

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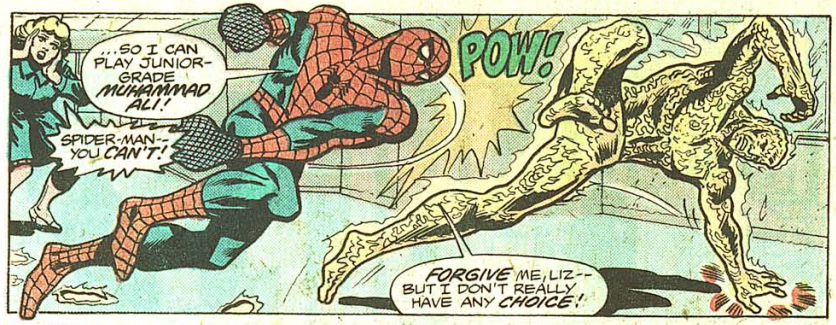

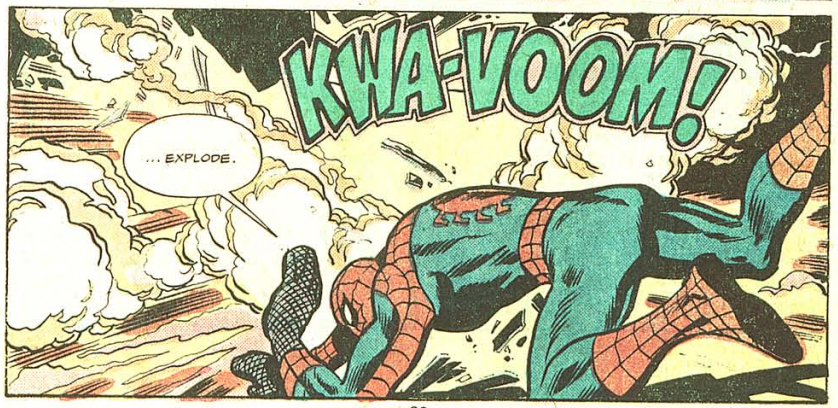

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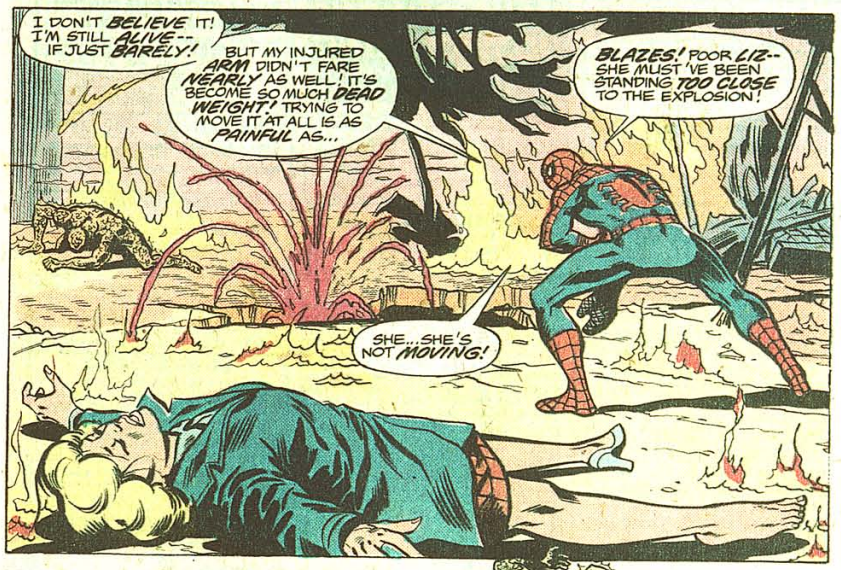

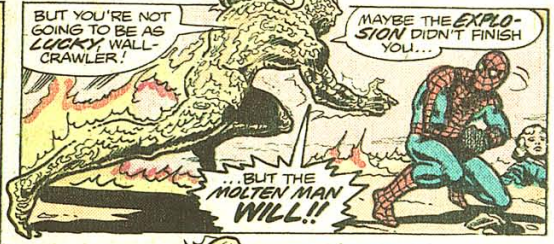

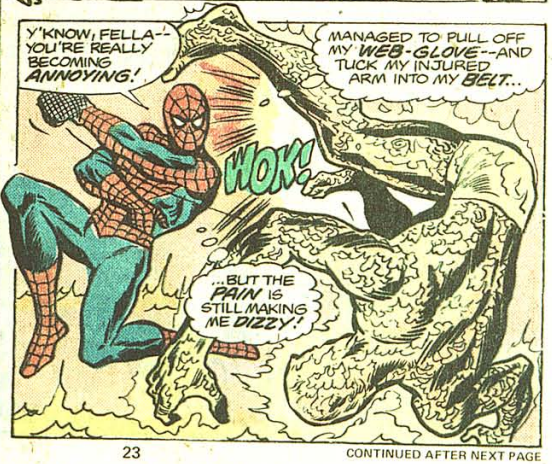

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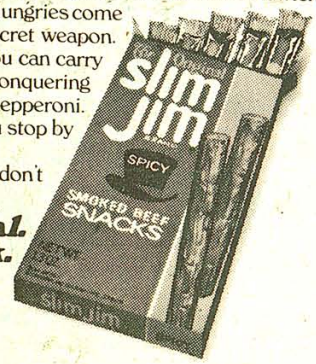

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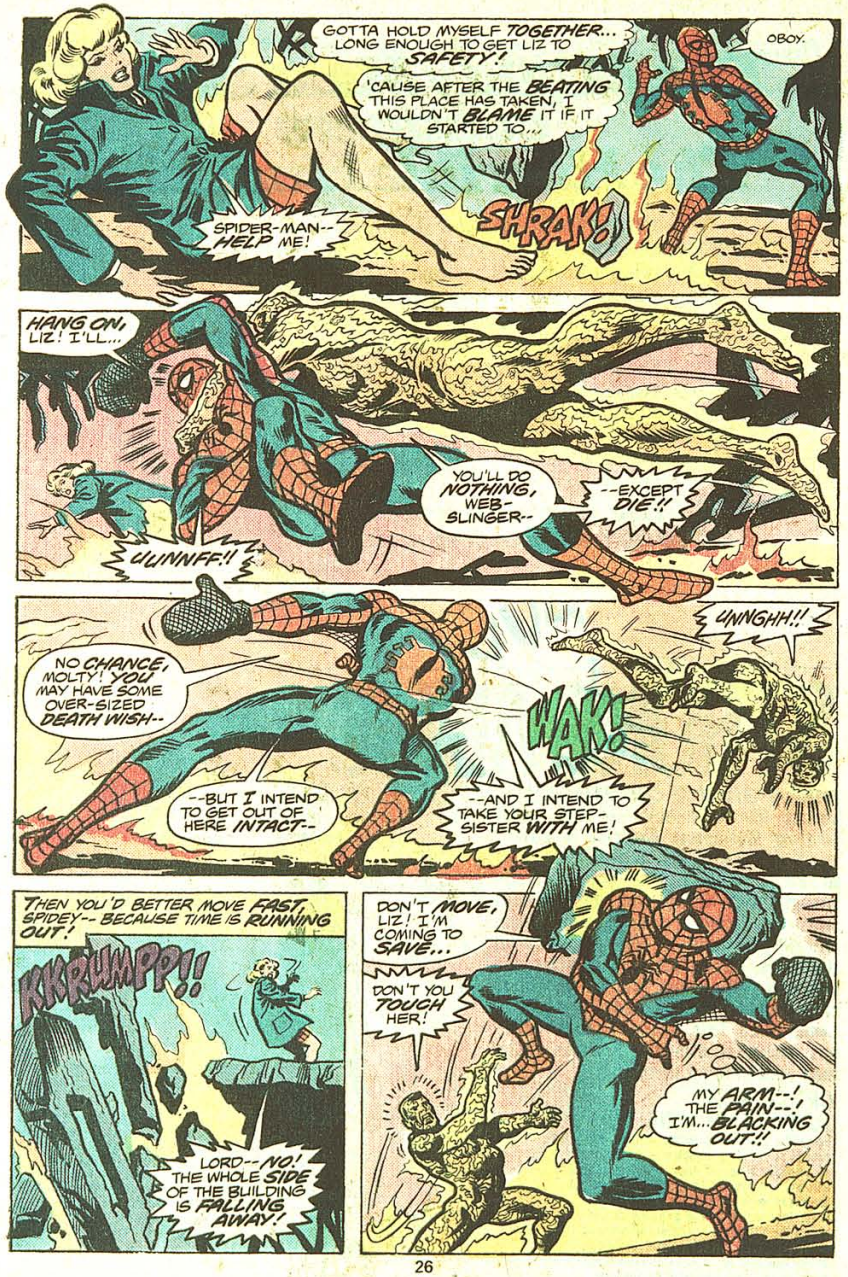

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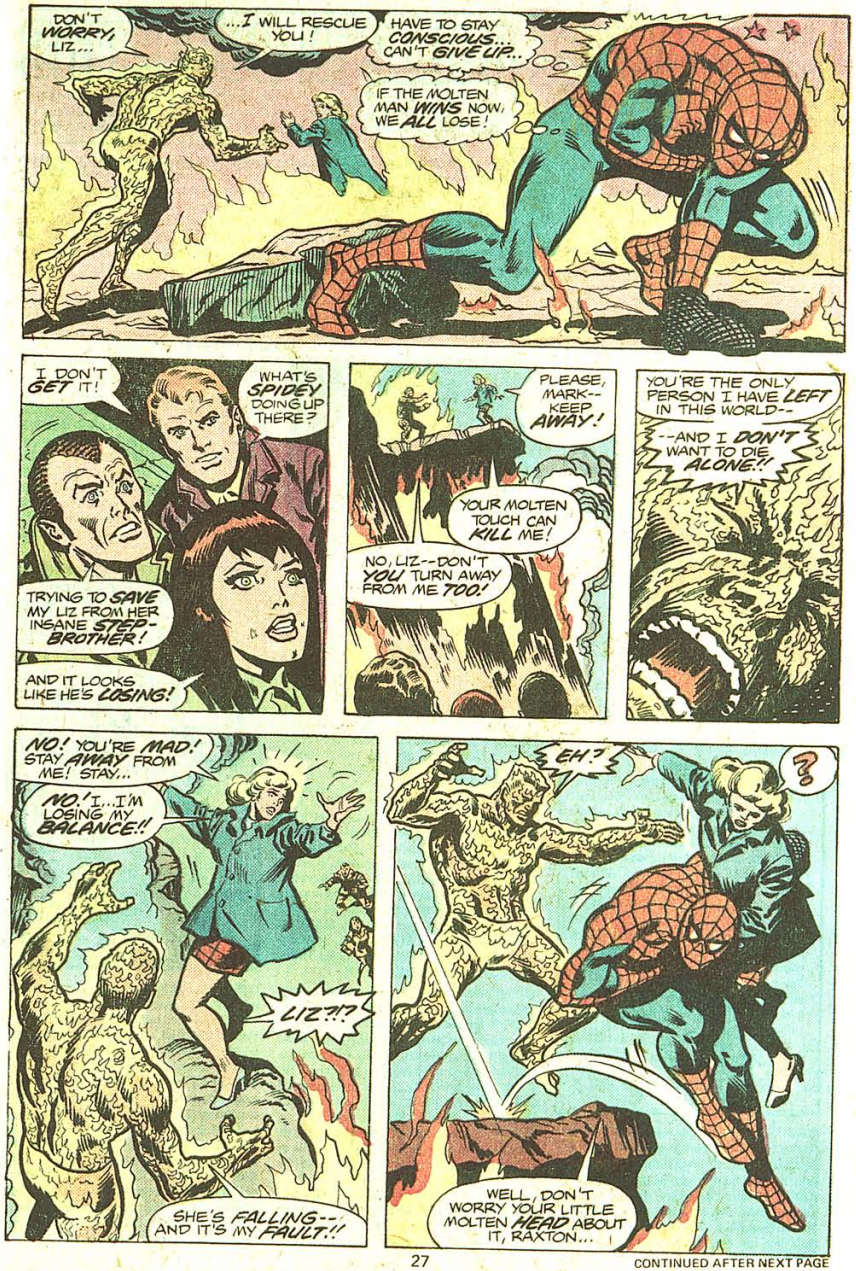

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Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! July may be the traditional time for firecrackers, but there's another kind of explosion about to hit full-force this month. And if your built-in cornballism detector is starting to blip like crazy, that's because you're *right*. . .we *are* about to mention that Marvel Explosion we're always talking about here and in our ads. But, truth to tell, explosion is about the only way to describe all the zillion and one things we're sending your way this mid-summer season, over and above the items Stan has already covered in the Soapbox. Just for starters, let us clue you to the fact that the MARVEL SUPER-HEROES FUN BOOK #2 should already be on the shelves of your friendly neighborhood book emporium just waiting for you puzzle, maze, and word game fans (and if you're *not*, these fun books could well *change* that) to stretch your skills as well as your knowledge of Marvel lore by trying them out.

ITEM! Then there's the big doings in our black-and-white magazine department, namely all kinds of excitement over the latest issue of MARVEL PREVIEW. This one will reintroduce you to STAR-LORD, the cosmic crusader who first appeared in the pages of PREVIEW #4. Ever since his dazzling debut, we've been hounded with requests to let Star-Lord soar the spaceways once again. So, editor JOHN WARNER recruited the popular writer/artist team of CLAREMONT and BYRNE (Chris and John to most MARVEL TEAM-UP and IRON FIST fans!) to do just that. What we expected was the normally sensational job we expect on *any* of our books; what we got—aided, abetted, and amplified by the dramatically detailed inking of Terrific TERRY AUSTIN—was fifty-two pages of mind-stunning science-fiction adventure that had even the most jaded of Bullpenners lining up to glimpse each new batch of completed pages as they were delivered. Okay, if you praise a thing *too* much, it creates expectations that can never be lived up to. So, in our typical low-key manner, we'll merely suggest that if you only buy *one* large-size format comic this year, better make it MARVEL PREVIEW featuring STAR-LORD, or you'll be kicking yourself the rest of your life! There. Who says we can't be subtle?

ITEM! Talking about the black-and-white magazines, let's extend congratulations to ROGER SLIFER on becoming the new editor of the line, replacing JOHN WARNER, who'll be returning to freelance writing (such as the BLOODSTONE feature now backing up THE RAMPAGING HULK). Roger is bright-eyed and eager, and has a whole drawerful of projects he'll soon be bringing your way. In fact, in view of some of the future projects Roger will be in charge of, as well as some of the items he's handling currently—like the full-color MARVEL CLASSICS and special movie projects such as ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU and THE DEEP—black-and-white editor is pretty much a misnomer. At the moment we don't really have a better or more accurate title (Special Format Editor comes close but somehow lacks the subtle *joie de vivre* we're always seeking), but as soon as we do, we'll hit you with it. Meantime, get ready to be hit with a lot of way-out wonderment from Mr. Slifer, his assistant editor Reliable RALPH MACCHIO, and the whole blamed black-and-whi—er—well—their whole creative crew!

ITEM! If science-fiction is in the works this month in our black-and-white try-out mag, MARVEL PREVIEW, our *color* experimental book, MARVEL PREMIERE, is covering the other side of the coin, namely fantasy. We're presenting WEIRDWORLD, an excursion into the realm of wizards, elves, and mystic monsters conducted by Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH, Maniacal MIKE PLOOG, and Active ALEX NINO. If you've thrilled to Tolkien's THE HOBBIT or LORD OF THE RINGS, we've got a hunch this is going to be just what you've been waiting for. In fact, with enough sales and letter encouragement, we just might be able to convince the powers-that-be that *now* is the time for a regular epic fantasy comic!

ITEM! Summer is approaching its peak, and so too is our production of King-size Annuals. This time around we've got TARZAN, THOR, THE ETERNALS, and JOHN CARTER, WARLORD OF MARS making their appearances in all-new, bonus-size adventures, as well as THE INVADERS and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. If that's not enough, two MARVEL CLASSICS are also ready for your edification and enjoyment: H.G. Wells' THE INVISIBLE MAN and Homer's ILIAD. And coming up in August will be Annuals of THE AVENGERS, THE INCREDIBLE HULK, and THE FANTASTIC FOUR, plus the aforementioned Marvel Movie Special, THE DEEP (But more details about that *next* month). Meantime, remember—never tickle a temperamental toad!

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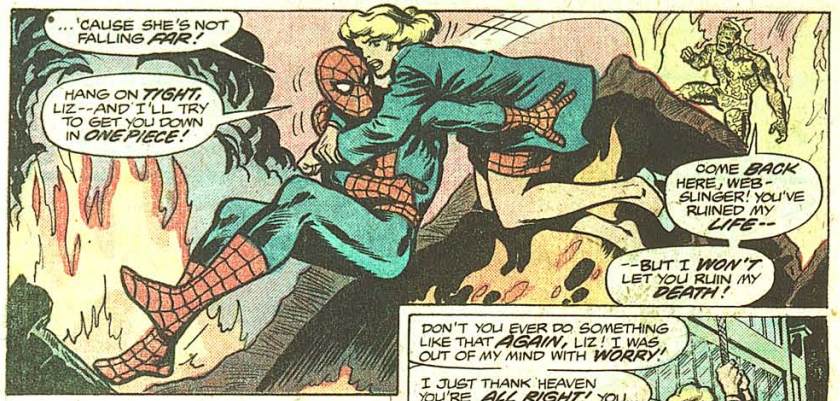

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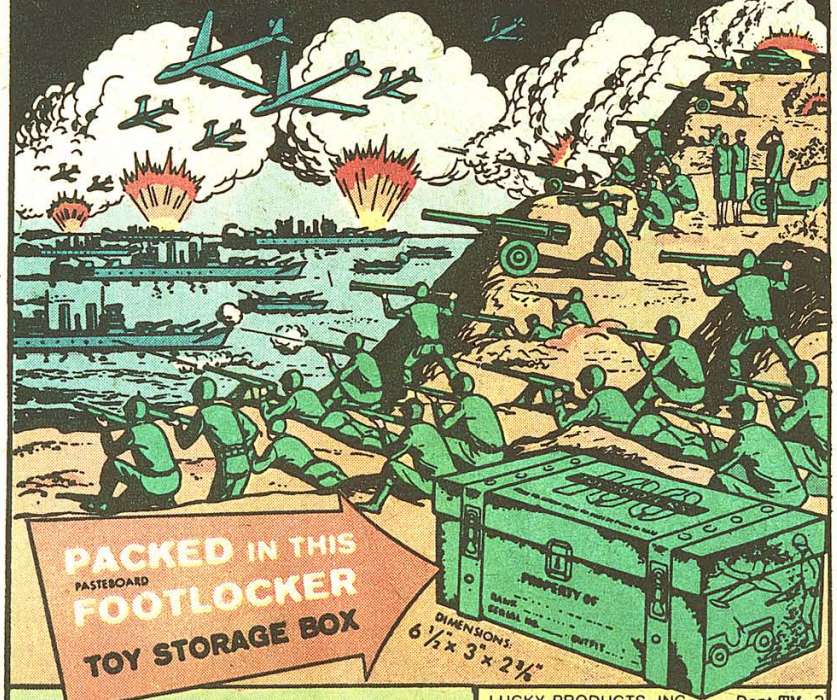

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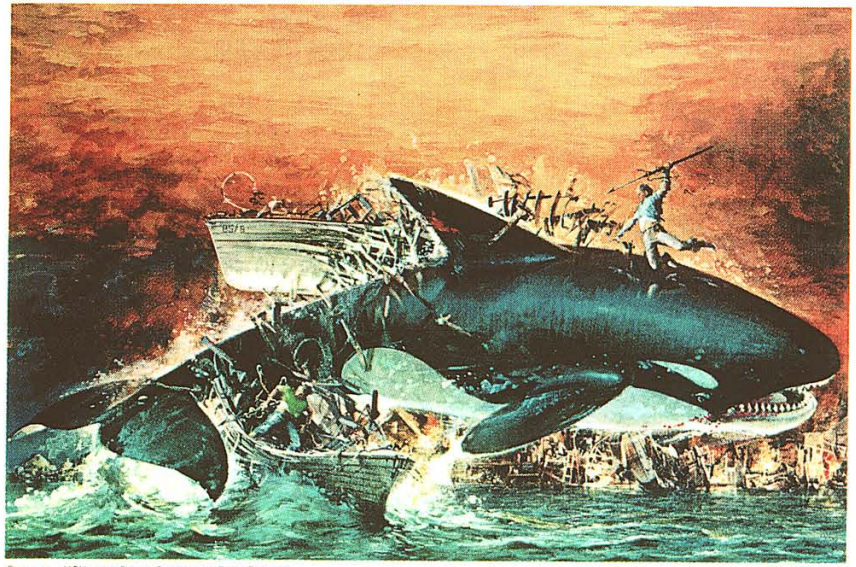

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